

COMMISSIONERS' ORDINANCE NO. O-01-22

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 33 OF THE COVINGTON CODE OF ORDINANCES, "POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS" TO ADD A NEW SECTION 33.24, "POLICE DEPARTMENT STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION" REQUIRING THE COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO TAKE ACTION TO MAINTAIN ACCREDITATION WITH THE COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AND ESTABLISHING ANNUAL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADOPTION OF POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICIES.

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WHEREAS, the Covington Police Department has been voluntarily accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies ("CALEA") since 2017, which is acknowledged as the "gold standard" for accrediting law enforcement agencies in the United States and other countries; and

WHEREAS, CALEA accreditation provides an independent, rigorous review and evaluation of the Police Department's standards to ensure best practices related to life, health, and safety procedures for the department, and further ensures officers are prepared to meet basic community service expectations and manage critical events; and

WHEREAS, the Covington Police Department and Board of Commissioners have opted to formalize the Police Department's commitment to CALEA accreditation by establishing through City ordinance that the Police Chief shall cause the Police Department to take such actions required maintain accreditation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners further wishes to establish a regular schedule of review and formal Commission adopt of policies and procedures promulgated by the Chief of Police; and

WHEREAS, such commitments will enhance community understanding, cooperation and support of the Police Department.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON, KENTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY:

Section 1

Section 33.24, which reads as follows, is added to and amends the Covington Code of Ordinances:

§ 33.24 POLICE DEPARTMENT STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION.

(A) The Chief of Police shall cause the Police Department take such actions required to maintain status as an accredited law enforcement agency through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies

("CALEA"). If accreditation through CALEA is discontinued or otherwise unavailable, the Police Department shall acquire an alternative national or state sanctioned law enforcement accreditation meeting similar standards.

(B) The Chief of Police shall annually cause all Police Department policy changes adopted by the Chief but not yet approved by the Covington Board of Commissioners to be submitted to the Commission for ratification, approval, and adoption in the second quarter of each calendar year.


(c) The Chief of Police is authorized to and shall adopt all formal Police Department policy amendment recommendations made by CALEA. Such CALEA recommended amendments shall not require prior approval of the Covington Board of Commissioners, and shall instead be effective immediately upon adoption by the Chief Police.

Section 2

That this ordinance shall take effect and be in full force when passed, published, and recorded according to law.


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK

Passed: January 25, 2022 (Second Reading)

January 11, 2022 (First Reading)